



# POACT

Police Officers Association of Connecticut

February 26, 2019  
Labor and Public Employees Committee

## Testimony in Support:

### **Proposed HB No. 6916 -- *AN ACT EXPANDING REMEDIES AND POTENTIAL LIABILITY FOR UNREASONABLY CONTESTED OR DELAYED WORKERS' COMPENSATION CLAIMS.***

POACT is a Police Association of 20 municipal unions across the State of CT, including New Haven and Stamford -- representing more than 2,000 individual police officers.

Police Officers are very appreciative that Rep. Johnson proposed this important legislation.

The stated purposes of the bill include: (1) to prevent injured workers from losing their jobs due to undue delay in care, ... (3) prevent injured workers from going on long-term disability and using their jobs.

Police officers are highly-trained and highly-specialized public safety professionals. If they are injured, they need to receive the appropriate medical care very quickly so that they can get back to work, protecting the families in their communities. However, if the officer cannot receive timely medical care to get back to work, then the police chief -- especially in smaller towns -- may be required to hire another officer to perform the injured officer's crucial public safety duties.

Although the existing workers compensation law does not allow an employer to discharge any employee for making a workers comp claim; the practical effect of current long delays in workers comp cases means that the injured police officer may be unreasonably and unnecessarily sidelined from doing his/her job in protecting families in their towns; which causes unnecessary increased costs for the police chief.

Back in 2000, the Office of Legislative Research reported on case delays in *OLR Report No. 2000-R-366*. Our police officers appreciate that the Labor Committee is again reviewing this important issue.

Please support HB 6916.

Thank you.

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